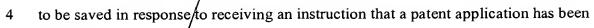
WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

| 1 | A computer-implemented method of managing documents |
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| 2 | related to a patent application, said method comprising: |
| 3 | storing a plurality electronic documents related to a patent application in |
| 4 | a database accessible to a server system, wherein each of said plurality of electronic |
| 5 | documents has a document type and wherein said plurality of stored documents |
| 6 | includes at least one document having a first document type and at least one document |
| 7 | having a second document type; |
| 8 | storing a ule in said database that indicates specific document types to |
| 9 | be deleted from said database in response to a predetermined event occurring related to |
| 10 | prosecution of said patent application, wherein said rule indicates that documents of |
| 11 | said second type should be deleted but not documents of said first type; |
| 12 | receiving a signal at said server system indicating said predetermined |
| 13 | event has occurred; |
| 14 | after receiving aid signal, implementing said rule to delete documents |
| 15 | of said second type in said database that are related to said patent application but not |
| 16 | delete documents of said first type that are related to said patent application. |
| 1 | 2. The method of claim 1 wherein said predetermined event is |
| 2 | either grant of a patent from said patent application or payment of an issue fee for said |
| 3 | patent. |
| 1 | 3. The method of claim 1 wherein said predetermined event is a |
| 2 | signal received from an authorized clent system. |
| 1 | 4. The method of claim 1 wherein said first document type is a filed |
| 2 | patent application and wherein said second document type is a draft patent application. |
| 1 | 5. The method of claim 1 wherein said patent application is |
| 2 | assigned to a first technology developer and wherein said signal is generated by a client |
| 3 | system associated with said first technology developer. |
| 1 | 6. The method of claim 5 wherein said client system is associated |
| 2 | with a patent practitioner that represents said first technology developer. |

| 1 | 7. The method of claim 1 wherein said executing step is in response |
|----|---|
| 2 | to receipt of said signal. |
| 1 | 8. The method of claim 1 wherein said plurality of electronic |
| 2 | documents also includes at least one document having a third document type, said third |
| | document type being associated with unofficial notes from an inventor of said patent |
| 3 | |
| 4 | application to an practitioner, and wherein said rule causes said server to delete |
| 5 | documents of said third type associated with said patent application during said |
| 6 | executing step. |
| 1 | 9. The method of claim 1 wherein said plurality of electronic |
| 2 | documents also includes at least one document having a fourth document type, said |
| 3 | fourth document type being associated with versions of patent papers stored in said |
| 4 | database in an image file format that were generated by a patent office, and wherein |
| 5 | said rule does not cause said server to delete documents of said fourth type associated |
| 6 | with said patent application during said executing step. |
| | |
| 1 | 10. The method of claim 1 further comprising allowing a client |
| 2 | system to create and/or modify said rule that defines specific document types to be |
| 3 | deleted and/or specific types of documents to be saved in response to receiving said |
| 4 | signal. |
| 1 | 11. A computer-implemented method of managing documents |
| 2 | related to a patent application, said method comprising: |
| 3 | storing a plurality electronic documents related to a patent application in |
| 4 | a database accessible to a server system, wherein each of said plurality of electronic |
| 5 | documents has one or more attributes associated therewith; |
| 6 | storing a rule in said database that determines specific electronic |
| 7 | documents to be deleted from said database in response to a predetermined event |
| 8 | occurring related to prosecution of said patent application, wherein said rule deletes |
| 9 | documents having a predetermined attribute; |
| 10 | receiving a signal at said server system indicating said predetermined |
| 11 | event has occurred; |
| 12 | after receiving said signal, implementing said rule to delete documents |
| 13 | from said database that are related to said patent application and have said |

| 14 | predetermined attribute but does not delete documents from said database that are |
|----|--|
| 15 | related to said patent application and do not have said predetermined attribute. |
| 1 | 12. The method of claim 11 wherein said predetermined event is a |
| 2 | grant of a patent from said patent application. |
| 1 | 13. The method of claim 11 wherein said predetermined event is |
| 2 | payment of an issue fee for said patent application. |
| 1 | 14. The method of claim 11 wherein said patent application is |
| 2 | assigned to a first technology developer and wherein said signal is generated by a client |
| 3 | system associated with said first technology developer. |
| 1 | 15. The method of claim 11 wherein said executing step is in |
| 2 | response to receipt of said signal. |
| 1 | 16. A server system for managing information related to patent |
| 2 | applications, said server system comprising: |
| 3 | (a) a processor; |
| 4 | (b) a database; and |
| 5 | (c) a memory for storing a program; |
| 6 | wherein said processor is operative with said program to: |
| 7 | (i) store, in said database, information related to a patent |
| 8 | application, said information including at least an invention disclosure, a patent |
| 9 | application as filed in an official patent office, unofficial documents related to said |
| 10 | patent application and one or more papers generated by said official patent office that |
| 11 | are related to said patent application; |
| 12 | (ii) in response to an indication from said official patent |
| 13 | office that said patent application has been allowed, receive an instruction to categorize |
| 14 | said patent application as allowed in said database and automatically delete said |
| 15 | unofficial documents related to said patent application from said database. |
| 1 | 17. The server system of claim 16 wherein said processor is |
| 2 | operative with said program to allow a client system to set-up workflow rules related to |
| 3 | defining energific types of documents to be deleted and/or energific types of documents |



5 allowed.

1 18. The server system of claim 16 wherein said unofficial documents

- 2 include one or more of: notes from an inventor of said patent application to an
- 3 practitioner, draft/copies of said patent application and draft copies of Responses to
- 4 Office Actions.